

RASIC COACH OF AUSTRALIA

Melbourne and State coach Zvonimir Rasic has been chosen to coach the national squad during its world tour in October and November.

At 34, Rasic is the youngest man ever appointed to coach the Australian team.

The appointment was made at the weekend by the Australian Soccer Federation.

Marconi-Fairfield captain coach Les Scheinflug, a former Australian captain, was named as assistant to Rasic.

The national squad of 18 players will leave Sydney on October 23 and return on December 7.

It will play matches against Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Iran, Greece, AS Roma (Italy), Chelsea, Manchester City (England) and Mexico.

Although Rasic's appointment is for the tour only, it is likely that he will be retained by the ASF for he is most accomplished and the most dedicated coach in Australia.

His first job was with Footscray J.U.S.T. in 1967. When he took over, the team was second last, but due to his efforts, it finished in the top four.

He returned to the club in 1969 after it had narrowly missed relegation and took it to the State League championship.

Melbourne second

This season he took over Melbourne, which finished 10th last year and currently has the team in second position, behind the undefeated Juventus.

In addition, he coached the Victorian State team, which did not lose a game during the interstate series this year.

He was also in charge of the State Under 23 and Under 16 squads.

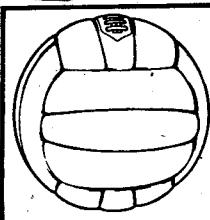
Before coming to Australia to join Footscray as a player, he starred with Yugoslavian teams Vojvodina and Spartak.

With these teams he played against such champions as Haller, Hidekuti, Sandor and Ozon.

In 1953 he played for the Yugoslavian Under 23 team in the FIFA tournament in Belgium against clubs like Honved, Ferencvaros and Rapid Vienna. One of his opponents was the great Uwe Seeler.

Later he starred with Footscray J.U.S.T. and represented Victoria many times. In

SOCCE



NEWS

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IN VICTORIA

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National coach Zvonimir Rasic

1963 he was voted full back of the year by Soccer News.

Footscray gave him a conditional transfer to Sydney club Yugal in 1966, and at the age of 29, he retired from the playing field because he was disappointed with club committees and the treatment given to players in Victoria.

Rasic has been coaching for only four years but has risen through the ranks because of his dedication and his modern coaching methods.

Married, with two young children - Daniella and Simon - he is a teacher at Caulfield Technical School.

Interviewed by Soccer News this week, he paid tribute to his wife Barbara for the encouragement she has given him, despite the long hours which his many activities demand.

Youth and experience

He also thanked the Victorian Soccer Federation for supporting him.

Asked about the likely structure of the national team, he said:

"It will be a combination of youth and experience. The purpose of the tour will be to gain as much international recognition as we can and to groom younger players for the 1974 World Cup."



Flashback to Rasic's playing days. That's him, second from right, leaving the field after helping Footscray J.U.S.T. win an Ampol Cup match. Frank Micic is on the left.

Hannan in GTV team

Variety compere, singer and disc jockey Jimmy Hannan has been named as one of the commentators for GTV's State League telecasts.

Hannan will be part of a three-man team, which also includes well known sports authority Maurie Kirby and former Brighton player Alex Barr, who used to run a soccer programme on Channel 9.

Telecasts will start on Sunday, September 6. The first match will be between South Melbourne and Hellas and George Cross.

Last weekend, GTV9 camera crews were out filming "soccer commercials" which will be shown regularly during prime viewing times to promote Victorian soccer.

Some of the players who will be featured in these segments are George King, Dino DeMarchi, Billy Vojtek, Jimmy Mackay and David High.

JACKPOT WINNER

Mr. R. Saltalamacchia has won \$600 in the Mocapan tipping contest.

Mr. Saltalamacchia, who lives in Westgarth, was eligible for the full amount because he enclosed a Mocapan label with his entry.

The prize in the contest now reverts to \$100. Details are on the back page.

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Slobodan Zoraja
of Footscray
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probably the most
powerful striker in
State League.

Over six feet tall and
built like a heavyweight,
Zoraja is a fearsome
opponent for any
defender and can not be
shifted easily off the ball.

Already he's built a
goal tally of 11 and is one
of the leading contenders
for State League scoring
honors.

Soccer News conducted
the following interview
with this 24-year-old goal

machine who joined
Footscray late in 1968.

Where did you play in
Yugoslavia?

I started as a centre
half in the Dinamo
Pancevo Juniors. After
five years I became a
centre forward with
Banatski Karlovac,
where I stayed for one
and a half years before

shifting to OFK Belgrade
in First Division. I had
about 11 senior games

there, and was a team
mate of Dragan Ut-
jesenovic, who also came
to J.U.S.T.

What's been your best
goalscoring season?

With OFK Belgrade
reserves I scored 45 one
season, in 14 games.

Why did you come to
Australia?

To help a Yugoslavian
club that was in danger of
relegation and to make
some money. I came together
with Branko Buljevic and Milan
Mihalovic.

It's generally
recognised that the three
of you helped Footscray
avoid the drop. How
many goals did you score
in 1968?

I got six in nine games
and Buljevic scored 10.
Last season I finished
with 16 and Buljevic with
17. Spijkerman of
Wilhelmina came first
with 18.

How do you find the
standard of Australian
soccer compared to that
in Yugoslavia?

It's one or two classes
lower.

Do you find it easier
playing here?

Yes much easier.

doing a good job under the
circumstances.

Why did Footscray
start this season so
badly?

Because the pre-season
training was poor. We had
no preparation. When

Rasic was coach we

trained well in advance of

the first game.

How much credit would
you give to Rasic for your
premiership win last
year?

I think he was 50 per
cent responsible. The rest
of the credit must go to
the players. Yet I think if
we had Rasic this year,

we would win the
premiership.

Who are the best
players in Victoria?

Stankovic was one of
the greatest ever to play
here. At present, I'd pick
Ujesenovic and Kinnell.

How did the players'
payments in Yugoslavia
compare to those in
Victoria?

Here we're getting \$43
for a win. In Yugoslavia
we were getting about
\$130. When you sign a
contract in Yugoslavia,
the club also gives you a
flat, which becomes your
own property.

How badly has the loss
of Mihalovic affected the
team?

Mihalovic is one of the
best linkmen in Australia
and his loss is partly the
reason for Footscray not
doing as well as last year.

From whom do you
think you have learned
most about soccer?

In Belgrade, I was
playing with Sekularac
and Milotinovic. I think I
learned a lot from those
two, especially
Milotinovic, who's the
greatest player I've ever
seen. His football was like
ballet.



Slobodan Zoraja is foiled by South Melbourne goalkeeper Dick Stephens.

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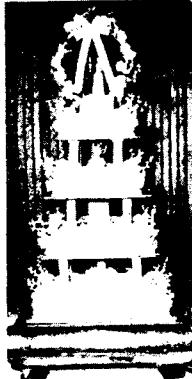
(E. & M. A. Sciberras)

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The strikers

a series on the top forwards
of the State League

Which players in the
Footscray team do you
get most help from on the
field?

Ujesenovic, he's the
best attacker in our side
and of course Buljevic,
with whom I have full
understanding. I can shut
my eyes and still know
where he is.

Do you prefer to play in
the middle or on the
right?

On the right. In the
middle you have too much
opposition.

Who is the toughest
defender in Melbourne to
play against?

Kyriazis of Hellas. He
doesn't know too much
football but he's very
determined and very fast.
I also find it hard to play
against Juhasz.

You often seem to have
trouble controlling the
ball. Does this worry you?

No. I think my ball
control is good enough. It
was good enough for First
Division in Yugoslavia.

How do you think the
loss of your coach Lou
Brocic will affect the
team?

It's certainly a big loss,
he is a great coach. But I
think our team is good
enough to stay in the top
four.

When does your
contract with Footscray
expire and what do you
intend doing when you
leave?

I'm signed up until the
end of next season and I'll
probably go back to
Yugoslavia after that.

The soccer here is poor
and so is the money. If I
get good money, I'll stay.

What differences are
there between European
and Australian soccer?

In Europe it's
professional. The players
train every day and the
standard of play is
therefore much higher.

Nevertheless, the
Footscray committee is

to me, Sunday is a day of rest, from a
religious point of view.

To be fair to players and to improve the standard of play in
Victoria, Sunday soccer must stop.

Matches should be played on
Saturdays and under lights on Wednesday nights.

Players are human beings. They find
it hard to resist the good life between
Fridays and Sundays and so they don't
stay in top condition.

If a player has been out on the town
on Saturday night, he won't give his all
on the field the next day.

Players are not all puritans and they
want to enjoy themselves. They are not
all conscientious either and it's a known
fact that many are in the game only for
the money. The more easily they get it,
the better.

Others find it hard to go seven days
without a break, with football part of
their employment.

With a free Sunday, it would give

them a chance to rest and to get over
their knocks and bruises.

Competition from other sports on
Saturday would not affect attendances.
People will still go to see the sport they
prefer.

Also, Saturday is recognised by all
fans as the traditional football day.

I think part of the reason for the poor
standard of soccer here is the poor
condition of players.

If players are fitter for a Saturday
match, the standard must improve.

I'd recommend all games played
on Saturdays but we simply
don't have enough grounds.

Therefore, we could have a double-
header at Olympic Park on Wednesday
nights. There are no other sports on at
this time, so we might even attract a
few people who don't normally watch
soccer.

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'PROFESSIONAL BREAD IS BITTER'—OLAH

In 1967, Eugen Olah outshone the stars of some of the world's top teams, to win a gold medal for being the best player in Italy's Arsenal International Tournament.

A competition for under 23 teams, it featured Inter-Milan, Juventus, Fiorentina, AC Milan and a Parma representative XI.

Olah was playing for

Vojvodina of Yugoslavia.

Now he's with State

League club Melbourne.

A full time professional

for four years until 1969,

Olah has also played for

Spartak, Backa and

Turkish club Ankara.

He was a junior at

Spartak, when Melbourne

and State coach Zvonimir

Rasic was playing in the

club's senior team.

This 25-year-old

linkman who has played

alongside Yugoslavian

greats like Pantelic,

Aleksic, Zemko, Dakic

and Trivic and trained

under the famous

Stankovic, was signed by

Melbourne committee

man, Mr. Yelo, who saw

him play for the Subotica

representative team in

Yugoslavia last year.

But despite his record,

Olah said this week:

"I am happy to be

playing in the reserves. I

do not want people to

expect too much of me

straight away."

On bench

For it's been six months

since Olah last played in

Europe and it will take

time before he's fit.

In Yugoslavia he was

not a first team regular.

"I didn't do so well

because the other players

were all great," he says.

"There were so many

good players that I often

had an international

sitting on the bench next

to me."

Olah came to Australia

because: "I realised

professional bread is very

bitter."

He said: "When you

play football full time you

do not have a chance of

learning a profession and

when you play you don't

get enough money to save

for later. Training is the

same as for top

professionals but the

money is three or four

times lower.

"If the club is not happy

with you, it puts you on

the transfer market."

Secondary

Soccer in Australia is

secondary to Olah. He

has come to work, earn

money, travel and to

learn the language.

"I will stay here as long

as I am happy," he says.

Olah expected more of

Australian Soccer than he

has seen.

"They too lacked

imagination. Also they

delivered the ball too high

and their passing was not

accurate enough."

"Because Australia

drew with Israel, I

thought soccer here

would be just as good. Of

course, I have seen only

one club match, and I

don't think your national

team plays the same

standard of soccer."

Olah sees a strong

British influence in

Australian soccer.

He watched the

Juventus v. Croatia

match and says:

"There was a lot of

running and players were

giving all they had but I

saw a tremendous lack of

imagination."

An art

"Soccer is an art and

should be played as an art

and not as a game for

muslemen. That's why

attendances both here

and in Europe are

decreasing."

In the Juventus v.

Croatia game, Olah saw

three of the best linkmen

in Australia — Jimmy

MacKay, Gareth

Salisbury, and Keith

Webster. What did he

think of them?

"They too lacked

imagination. Also they

delivered the ball too high

and their passing was not

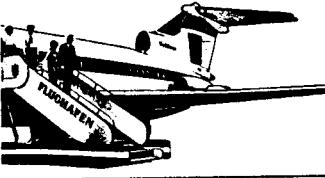
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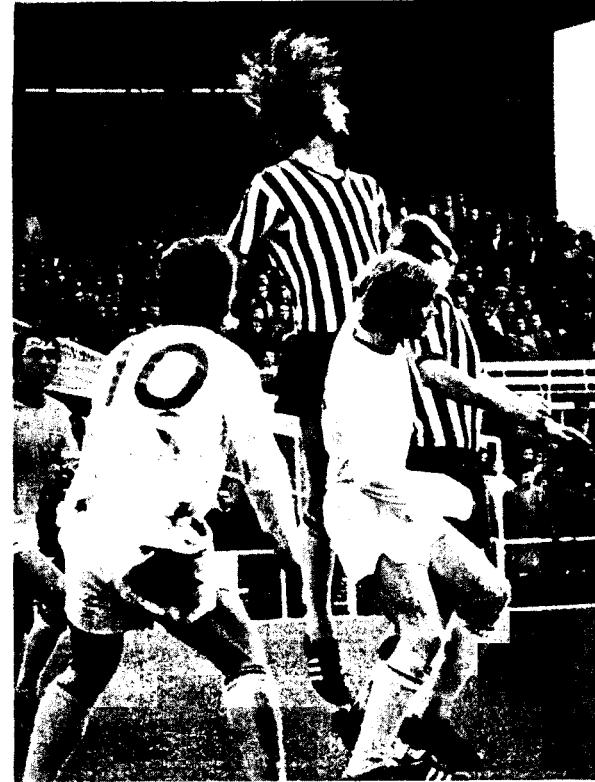
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Hair bouncing wildly, Juventus defender Sandy Irvine heads clear during Sunday's scoreless draw with South Melbourne Hellas. Others in the picture are from left, David Gorrie, Ernie Ackerley, Ian Marshall and Bobby Thomson.



Staff photographer Steve Reynolds caught Billy Vojtek in a 'shall-we-dance' position during the Croatia v. Polonia match on Sunday. Jersey Blank heads over Vojtek and Mike Olinowski looks on in the background.

GEORGE CROSS

will conduct the

MALTA NATIONAL DAY BALL

at the Royal Ballroom, Carlton
on September 4, from 7.30 p.m. to 2 a.m., B.Y.O.

Tickets available from George Cross officials.

Lazorko suspended

Lions' president, Roman Lazorko, has been suspended by the VSF pending investigation of charges made by pressman Alistair Cook of the Sporting Globe.

The Juventus appeal has reached a total of \$3,499.55. Latest donation was \$20 from the Bisieri Company.

-0-0-

Brighton has new ground

Second Division club Brighton has clinched the lease for a new ground at Dendy Park.

The ground is part of a \$100,000 development project being carried out by Brighton Council and will include a \$40,000 pavilion.

Foundations of the pavilion have already been laid and Brighton secretary Alan Knight is

confident the ground will be ready for next season.

Brighton won the lease ahead of Brighton Grammarians Hockey Club, which was also in the running.

Mr. Knight said the new ground would be one of the best in Melbourne.

A big yawn



Ernie Ackerley of South Melbourne is what could be called a casual player. Judging from the picture he treated the Juventus game as a big yawn.

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Lions 0.
Geo. Cross 7



Melbourne 2.
Slavia 0

(Pocock, 16, 18)

With Jim Train starring in midfield, Slavia played a great second half but its lack of striking power nullified most of the good work from behind.

Melbourne's winner was Ray Pocock, whose continuous switching from the right wing to the middle left the Slavia defence helpless.

It was Pocock who scored both goals, in the 16th and 18th minute.

Melbourne had most of the play in the first half and several shots went just wide.

But after the break Slavia coach Ken Kontra, on Russell Steele, for Brian Adlam, who had not been able to handle Bill McGowan and the forward line began to look more dangerous.

Train, playing his first game as linkman, was getting good support from Miro Schleichter and Sandy Jones was constructive when he moved forward from defence.

But Slavia's goal-scoring forwards, ineffective at the best of times, could not pass Fabian Juhasz and his defenders.

Melbourne's linkman Johnny Wallace played probably the worst game of his career and the crowd let him know it.

Coach Zvonimir Reilley called him to the line in the second half and talked to him. He would have been justified in replacing him but it was good to see him giving the young another chance.

It was simply one of those days for Wallace that he would use it as a lesson to fight harder when he isn't running for him.

MELBOURNE: Gerrard, Daid, Juhasz, Szabo, McGinn, Scott, Ker (sub, Dobbins half time). Wallace (P.M.). Pocock, Rogers, Blaikie, Steele (half time). Coach Zvonimir Reilley.

SLAVIA: O'Hara, Sheppard, Jones, Zanatta, Lazarovic, Jevic, Steele, Kempay, Adam, Wallace, McGowan, Jones, Sandy Jones, Train, Steele. Coach Ken Kontra.

Votes:
Melbourne: 3. Pocock. McGowan: 1. Juhasz. Wallace: 3. Train. Steele: 1. Jones.

Juve: 1. Steele. 2. Ker.

Slavia: 1. Pocock. 2. Ackerley. 3. McGowan. 4. Train. Steele: 1. Jones.

GEORGE YELLAND.

JOE MAJ.

Pygall holds lead

Progress votes:
26 Pygall (R). O'Neill (Hak).
25 McCarthy (L).
21 Jones (M).
19 Jones (S).
18 Olinowski, Czapnik (P).
17 Self (A), Kinnell (J).
16 Mackay (C), Utzepovic (P).
15 Stenoff (H).
14 Jones (S).
13 Michalek (M).
12 Clarey (Hak).
11 Tzortzis (P).
10 Lazarovic (F).
9 Volek (C). Rogers (M).
8 Pygall (M).
7 McIlnay (C). Spiekerman (P).
6 Eddley (R). Blekany (M).
5 Gorrie (H). Epifano (GC).
5 Kerl (M).

Goalscorers:

28 Clarey (Hak).
26 Tzortzis (P). Mangopoulos (M).
19 Lazarovic (F).
9 Volek (C). Rogers (M).
8 Pygall (M).
7 McIlnay (C). Spiekerman (P).
6 Eddley (R). Blekany (M).
5 Gorrie (H). Epifano (GC).
5 Kerl (M).

Ringwood linkman David Pygall still heads the voting for the Mariboro best player award.

Part of the award is a \$100 cheque. The Philip Morris company is also donating a trophy for the highest goalscorer of the year. Lead contender after the last round is Hakosh's Mick Clarey, who's hat-trick brought his tally to 12.

Burin works for the Commonwealth Employment Office and Foley couldn't have chosen a better man to speak to when he came in asking about a job and the possibility of joining a State League club.

Hellas unbeaten under 14 champs



South Melbourne Hellas has won the Under 14 League championship after going through the season undefeated.

The team, from left is, standing: Bill Curran (coach), G. Stavrou, C. Tsinaris, A. Kotanidis, T. Spanos. Front: S. Bennett, L. McLeod, K. McLeod, P. Murray.

DON'T HANG UP YOUR BOOTS

By RON BOOTH
of Our Lady's, Sunshine

Between the age when many boys leave school and when they are eligible to take up normal adult soccer, lies a gap.

If a boy leaves school at say, 15, this gap amounts to 3 years, because at 18 he ceases to be, in the soccer sense, a "minor".

While still in the gap, he is catered for by a special group of teams and clubs.

The aim of this article is to tell you something about these, because I believe many boys stop playing when they leave school merely because they do not know what opportunities are open to them. As I live in Sunshine, most of what I have to say will be based on soccer in the Sunshine area.

A great deal is heard of the schoolboy star



Seaford's under 11's, back row from left: David Watkins (coach), Mark Taylor, Stephen Coppard, Robert Carter, Brian Taylor, Brett Boling, Frank Menhennitt (manager).

Front: Raymond Hearn, Paul James, Peter Wall, Mark Saultry, Curt Schroeder, Martin Watkins. Missing: John Nixon.

player whose services are widely sought by the big clubs, but little is heard of the "average boy", the boy who never expects to earn money from the game but wants to go on playing merely because he enjoys it.

He may have been in the second 11 or even the third or fourth team at school, but he is still keen, though much of his interest may be lost unless he is helped and encouraged to go on playing. In the Sunshine area, most of this help and encouragement comes from the local soccer club and youth centres.

A Youth Centre is able to offer a school-leaver some form of physical training or a soccer coaching group. At the moment, Our Lady's Youth Centre is able to offer these services for boys in the under 11, and under 13 years of age bracket, with the object of promoting soccer to the highest Junior grade.

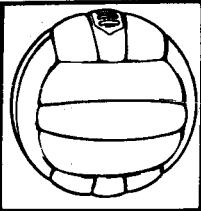
The point I want to make CRYSTAL CLEAR, is that it is not the expert schoolboy player who forms the backbone of youth centre sides — it is not necessary to have a bunch of stars. A team with good spirit and whose players are physically fit will often hold its own and beat the team that relies on one or two top-notchers. There are also some boys who will never make good soccer players yet can still contribute to the game. I can recall three boys who, though unable to shine, have contributed a good deal to soccer. Two were selected as linesmen, one of whom eventually became a qualified referee. The third boy at 16, became secretary of his club which operated in the local league. He was so efficient, he was invited to serve on the league's management committee, where he gave good service.

All boys should be satisfied to play in the grade of soccer for which their skills are suited.

While you are still at school, your first loyalty is, of course, to your school team, but think a little ahead, and explore the various ways open to you to continue playing... DON'T JUST HANG UP YOUR BOOTS!!

JUNIOR

SOCCER NEWS



THE VOICE OF SOCCER
IN VICTORIA

Schools in fight for Shield

The All-Technical Schools Under 14 side, will meet the All-High Schools combination for the Dunkling Shield at Olympic Park on Sunday.

The match will be the curtain-raiser to the Slavia v. South Melbourne match and the venue has been made available due to the co-operation of Slavia.

The Technical School won the Shield last year although they started as underdogs.

The High Schools will again be favorites but

coach Ollie Norris is confident that his boys can retain the Shield.

The Technical Schools squad is:

Chris Guz (Blackburn),

Keith Rhodes (Jordanville), Mike Tyler

(Noble Park), John

Hrononatis (Richmond), Ian Young

(Doveton), Con Avrimidis

(Collingwood), Fulvio

Tribuzio (Preston), Steve

Kelly (Mooroolbark),

Harry Bessis

(Collingwood), Jim

Kondaros (Richmond),

Julio Gugliotti (Preston),

Joe Toplak (Blackburn),

Kare Valjanovski

(Collingwood), Godwin

Hilli (Doveton), Mike

Ristic (Brighton), and

Jim Pirzes (Oakleigh),

captain.



Bayswater and Boronia High Schools after their finals clash in the local Knox City Trophy. Bayswater's captain Matthew Vandelaak, (holding trophy), is also a regular member of the Bayswater United senior side.

NEW CLUB

FRANKSTON CITY, one of the go-ahead Metro League outfits, have formed a new club for youngsters.

It will be known as the Overport Junior Soccer Club and use a ground in Overport Road.

The birth of this new team means that the growing army of soccer youngsters in the Frankston area can now choose from seven clubs to start their career.

Overport will first cater for boys from seven to 12 years.

Interested parents and boys should contact either Mr. Phillip Price, 64 Fulton Rd., Mt. Eliza (787-2654) or Mr. David Congdon, 57 Woolston Dr., Frankston (783-7820).



STEVEN WINS

Steven Timmerman, 8, of Box Hill, has won a pair of football boots as first prize in the recent Junior Soccer News competition. Steven is asked to ring Soccer News on 94-4112 or 94-4304.

Karingal's under 14's



Mark Swain - Mark has soccer ability which, with continued practice and concentration, will undoubtedly improve beyond recognition.



Karingal's under 14's, back row, from left: N. Coventry, R. Bjelica, D. Anderson, I. Gange, T. Mehmed, M. Swain, D. Cooper. Centre: D. McIntosh, G. Williams, R. Miotta, A. Kemeys, R. Koch. Front: B. Moore, T. Taylor, P. Haye, P. Beeton.



Douglas McIntosh - Beginning this season as a hard working right half with a tenacity that earned him the respect of his team mates, Douglas has lately entered the forward line as a striker and has added punch to the attack.



DAVID COOPER: David began this season as an average player, but has become the best centre half prospect in the league. David's mastery of the offside trap is at times a delight to see.

TIMOTHY TAYLOR: A natural soccer player, Timmy is a good ball player, lacking only in power, which will come as he grows. A member of a soccer family, with two brothers in other teams for the "Devils".



Ryco Bjelica - Ryco has played mainly as left winger this season. A very strong, two footed player, selected to represent Victoria against Sth. Australia a few weeks ago. Given to occasional lapses in temper, as he matures he is conquering this habit and thus becoming an inspiration and example to his team mates.



D. Anderson - Karingal's goalkeeper. Began the season timidly, but has blossomed into worthwhile material. Needs to practice diving but next season should find him as a capable keeper.



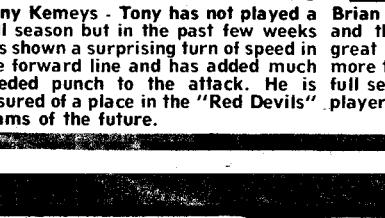
Tony Kemeys - Tony has not played a full season but in the past few weeks has shown a surprising turn of speed in the forward line and has added much needed punch to the attack. He is assured of a place in the "Red Devils" team of the future.



Brian Moore - A newcomer to soccer and the "Devils". Brian has shown great promise and his lack of size is more than made up by his tenacity. A full season will produce a worthwhile player.



Norman Coventry - Right back for the "Red Devils". A strong player who is sometimes erratic. Given another season Norman will improve considerably.



Paul Beeton - Another talented boy of the small brigade. Paul has plenty of soccer skill, and an ability to work hard. A half back with courage, Paul will be a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead.



Paul Haye - Paul is another natural player with an ability that will ensure a bright soccer future. Although a little small for his age, Paul does not lack courage and another season will see him make great strides.



Graeme Williams: A delightful ball player, naturally left footed. As he develops in stature and curbs his tendency to over dribble he will attain the highest honours available in soccer.



TORREN MEHMED: Right winger with tremendous speed, and improving skill. Torren's height and speed made up for his initial lack of skill, but now that his skills have improved, he has become a formidable player.



Roman Miotta - Roman joined Karingal as a defender, after the start of the season and was not, at first, able to command a place in the side. However, as the season has progressed, he is undoubtedly the most improved player in this age group.

STRIKERS MUST BE QUICK THINKERS

The duty of a striker is to score and to create scoring chances.

He must have an inborn zest for scoring and he must be a fast thinker.

Within the meaning of striker we include both the centre and outside forwards.

Of all the players in the team, the strikers are required to solve the most complicated tactical and technical problems.

Complications arise because the striker is always in or around the penalty area and therefore constantly covered by defenders.

He is therefore forced to use all elements of technique and individual tactics in a confined space. His play depends upon split-second decisions.

When he tries to shoot at goal or set up a team mate, he must do so quickly and accurately, surrounded by defenders. Therefore, the coach must work individually with his strikers and make them practice under conditions which would be encountered during a game.

All exercises must be climaxed by the striker shooting at goal, because his aim is to score.

Depending upon the shape of the team and the number of front line players, the coach should devise a series of combinations for the three or four strikers.

These combinations must be based upon place changing, which is

rapidly becoming a prerequisite of modern attacking play.

Place changing in attack is nothing more complicated than the old art of position switching but if it is to be continuous it will bring in its wake new problems of condition and technique.

Demands

To be constantly changing positions, will make greater physical demands upon strikers.

Through modern methods of preparation, these problems can be overcome and there is no reason why front line players can not be as fit as linkmen, who are expected to take an active part in the game for the full 90 minutes.

The new technical problems are more difficult to solve for if front players are always changing position, it follows that they be asked to fulfill roles of other front players.

Wingers will be called upon to shoot first time with their wrong foot and all front players, in turn.

will be required to pull back the ball from either wing while moving at speed.

The foundations of attacking play are: Passing the ball, opening up and receiving the ball.

Modern soccer is trying to include individual action as an important tactical weapon so strikers must practice as often as possible, all aspects of individual play — dribbling, shooting at goal, carrying the ball and so on.

Running off the ball is probably the most important element. It is so important that it is used at the highest level of soccer as part of a team's tactics.

A good example of this was set by the famous Sandor of Hungary.

In a game against Yugoslavia in Zagreb, Yugoslavia's defence relaxed after leading 4-1 and allowed Sandor who had been running up and down unnoticed to score three goals in 15 minutes.

In the return match, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia had a man closely marking Sandor. In addition, the

other defenders were also paying him close attention.

Sandor kept running up and down the field, drawing the attention of the defence towards him. This left Florian Albert, then a youngster, free to score three goals.

It proves that the player without the ball can play a very important role in the team.

An attack starts when a player from your team has the ball. That player can even be the goalkeeper.

The first pass in an attack is as important as the last because an attack involves many players and is an intricate movement.

The aspects of such a movement are:

- Running into open space;
- Playing without the ball, to draw an opponent towards you and leave a team mate in open territory;
- Combination play;
- Dribbling;
- Shooting.

Against a tight, well-organised defence, it is wise to hold the ball in midfield until you find an

opening for a through pass.

Against a less organised defence you should concentrate on fast counter-attacks, using speed to beat the opposition.

Peripheral vision is important. When under pressure you must look around, think in advance and find open space as quickly as possible.

Use the ball — that's the best advice, for nobody is faster than the ball and no one has as much endurance.

When discussing dribbling, we define three different kinds:

- Holding the ball until the team mate is in a position to accept a pass;
- Beating an opponent and drawing out another, thus leaving a team mate on his own;
- Beating one or two opponents and then scoring or letting a team mate make score.

Without dribbling and other kinds of improvisation, a football match will become too schematic and unattractive to spectators. Elements which strikers should practice are:

- Different ways of receiving the ball;
- Body swerves;
- Receiving the ball while at right angles to goal, thus speeding up the game;

- Feinting with the back to an opponent, and feinting in different ways while facing the opponent;
- Protecting the ball with all parts of your body, especially the hips, in case you are not able to pass the ball;

- Receiving the ball and then shooting at goal with the foot furthest away from the opponent;

- Carrying the ball, dribbling and shooting for goal;

- Shooting at goal with and without first stopping the ball, from different kinds of centre shots;

- Carrying the ball, passing to a team mate, waiting for the return and then shooting for goal;

- Shooting from different angles;

- Shooting at goal after a forward roll or after springing up from a lying position;

- Heading towards goal against an opponent;

- Practicing first-time pass, wall pass, through pass;

- Shooting at goal after a forward roll or after springing up from a lying position;

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- Shooting at goal after a forward roll or after springing up from a lying position;

They're unbeaten



Sunshine Heights under 9's, unbeaten in League games. Standing, from left: S. Scerri, S. Morgan, S. Hayden (v.c.), N. Comegna, G. Gane, R. Petherick. Front: H. Haralambous, P. Hatzis, S. Maunders, R. Vella (Capt.), C. Daglis, D. Hayden, C. Burton.

Altona beats Geelong team

Altona's under 14's defeated a representative Geelong Little League team 2-1 at Altona on the weekend.

The game was played under poor conditions and play was even.

Geelong featured a number of skilful players who look good enough for the State squad.

The team will meet the Victorian under 14's at a later date.



Melbourne's under nines, standing, from left: Mike Orr, Karl Laraman, Toni Kompos, Frank Csik, Mike Filiardis, Robert Dalgleish, Brian Keenan, Bill Orr, Kevin Anderson, Coach - Bill Naday. Sitting: Neil Brown, Frank Szentandrassy, Steve Kiss, Collin Walker, Steve Naday, John Walfrich, David Naday.



SOCCER NEWS

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State and South Melbourne under 14 goalkeeper Michael Tsivoglou sends a long clearance upfield during a recent League match.

Opinions expressed by individual writers in Soccer News are not necessarily those of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

CROATIA HOME IN CUP SEMI

Croatia defeated George Cross 3-2 in an exciting Under 17 Cup semi-final at Middle Park.

Croatia were first to settle down but Victoria's under 16 goalkeeper Ferrante, was always well positioned.

In the sixth minute, Unkovic dribbled down the wing from his full-back position, and near the corner flag centred the ball to the goal area where Bacic dribbled two players and shot past Ferrante.

George Cross hit back at 20 minutes when Infelice collected the ball on the right wing, ran into the penalty area, and from 15 yards hit the cross bar. The ball rebounded into play, but the referee allowed a goal.

Four minutes later George Cross hit the front when centre-forward S. Nagy headed home a centred ball.

Croatia, without their midfield general Nino Budicin, couldn't match the fast and hard tackling George Cross team.

In the last 10 minutes Croatia went for a do-or-die effort, leaving only Cotic and Krupic in defence. The pressure put on the George Cross defence was tremendous and the ball was moving from left to right in the penalty area.

Five minutes from the end, the referee awarded a penalty from which Croatia equalised through Mlinarevic.

Only two minutes later, Croatia scored the winning goal by Mlinarevic.

Best Players for Croatia: Debeljuk, Grbac.

Best Players for Cross: Cutajar, Ferrante, Deguara.

In the Cup final, Croatia will meet Juventus at Olympic Park on Saturday in the curtain-raiser to the main game.

This game will be very interesting, after talks criticising the importing of overseas players by State League teams.

From this game, soccer fans will be able to judge just how much State League clubs can depend upon their juniors in the near future.

Croatia hasn't lost a game and is likely to be set for a double having already won the under 17 premiership.

But, Juventus with their big wins in previous Cup games look good.

Boasting a few Victoria under 16 representatives, they will keep the Croatia defence pretty busy.

Under 10

SEAFORD 4, BAYSWATER 0

Some terrific link play by Kevin Wall and Hugh Curran was a feature of the match and it was encouraging to see the forwards on the ball most of the time.

Seaford now awaits the outcome of the Doveton-Bayswater match.

A Doveton defeat will

give Seaford second place but a win will mean a play off with Seaford.

Goal scorers: P. Taylor, K. Clarke, S. Price, R. Taylor.

Best Players: K. Wall, H. Curran, S. Price, K. Clarke.

Under 11

MELBOURNE 2, SEAFORD 0

Seaford improved on their previous form

against top team Melbourne and the game was very close.

All boys played their best soccer but the following deserve special mention: M. Taylor, B. Boling, S. Coppard, B. Taylor.

Seaford's under 9's, 12's, and 14's have finished their league games but will be participating in local competitions during September.



Six-year-old Ross Lindsay Graham, is one of Rosanna's mighty midgets and is currently showing plenty of ability on the left-wing in the under 10's. Ross was born in Sydney.

RESULTS

Under 8

UNDER 8
 Peninsula 0, v.
 Bayswater A 1.

0 v. Frankston Pines 3, Frankston City 2 v. Box Hill 0, Karingal 4 v. Peninsula 0.

Under 9

UNDER 9
 Waverley W-O v.
 Sunshine.

UNDER 12
 Albion Rovers v.
 Newt W-O, Doveton 0 v. Melbourne 8, Ringwood City 0, Albion Rovers 3 v. Sunshine Hts. 2 v. Eltham 0, Sunshine City 4 v. Werribee 0, Bayswater 0 v. Seaford 4, Doveton 3 v. Bayswater 1, Karingal 2 v. Doncaster 0.

Under 10

UNDER 10
 Burnley 2 v. Moreland 0, Albion Rovers 3 v. Sunshine Hts. 2 v. Eltham 0, Sunshine City 4 v. Werribee 0, Bayswater 0 v. Seaford 4, Doveton 3 v. Bayswater 1, Karingal 2 v. Doncaster 0.

UNDER 14
 Langwarrin 0 v. Bayswater 2.

Under 15

UNDER 15
 Doveton W-O v.
 Frankston City.

UNDER 16
 George Cross 4 v.
 Juventus 4.

Under 17

UNDER 17
 Melb 2 v. Seaford 0, Ringwood City 0, v.
 Doncaster 2, Waverley 0.

CUP
 Croatia 3 v. George Cross 2, Keilor W-O v. Heidelberg.

Y SENT OFF



Croatia 5.
Polonia 0

Jim Train.

Hakoah 4.
Fitzroy 0

Vaaldyck 15,
Clarey 69, 71,
85)

Mike Clarey came the top player in State football when he had a hat-trick against a jiggling Fitzroy.

is a real team effort for Hakoah, which, for the first time this season, carried no goals.

Hakoah was several steps above Alexander, whose players virtually in the towel during the second half.

Both sides played the trap but Hakoah's line, led by Keith Askey, overcame the

Anderson red from an injury, well in midfield and full use of the open prompting made it for the forwards and defending by Alan use and John O'Neill allowed Fitzroy to dangerous.

ay's three goals were spectacular but he was in the right spot at the time. He has now over half of his goals.

Portwood replaced Jack at half time and the Hakoah look even

Fitzroy, Takiopoulos was a fine battler and Ligouras was one of the few constructive players. Stenhouse has settled down since the recent back results speak for themselves.

H. Henderson; Douglas, O'Neill, Baker; Geddy, Fry, Carey, Vaaldyck (two, half time), Lane, Adam, O'Donnell, Vasilakis (sub, half time); Karthopoulos, Valtanis, Sofie, Giemini, Gikoklamas, Papagrigoriou, Vulos. Coach Manny. Coach Kaz Kowalec.

Goals: 1. Fry, 2. Stenhouse, 1. Vaaldyck, 1. O'Neill, 2. Xanthopoulos, 2. Sofie, 1. Krot.

George Yelland.

(Mackay 38, 84.
Williams 39.
Vojtek 51, 85)

The combined brilliance of international Jimmy Mackay and Billy Vojtek was too much for Polonia to handle and produced four of Croatia's five goals.

Both did a lot of work in midfield and both were deadly in front of goal.

Without these two soccer giants, the game would have been much more even.

Marek Konopka had enough influence in midfield to generate some dangerous attacks and up front the guile and experience of Kaz Kowalec sometimes worried Croatia's defence.

Mike Olinowski was again superb in defence. Without him Vojtek and Mackay might have done more damage.

Olinowski's job was more difficult this time because he did not have the support of Eddy Marmur who was playing in attack.

Critics have been saying that Vojtek is having a poor season. This is unjust. All year he has been playing a lone hand on the front line, making his job probably the most difficult in the team.

On Sunday, with Mackay next to him in attack, he made it clear that he is still one of Australia's leading strikers.

Mackay too, reminded the fans that he has few competitors for the left link spot in the national team.

Polonia linkman Andrew Czapnik had his first game after recovering from a dislocated toe and should return to his best form within the next few weeks.

Polonia still has key players on the injury list and will do better when closer to full strength.

CROATIA: Kovacek; Wixey, McArthur, Symons, Williams, Bajer, Melnyt, Vojtek, Mackay, Arnone, (sub, Gelenovic); 73, Coach Mike Kise.

POLOMIA: Szalinski (sub, Czaplinski); Knot, Olinowski, (Czaplinski), Blank, Czapnik, Wielgocz, Jaworski, Swiatek, Marusik, Kowalec. Coach Kaz Kowalec.

Votes:

Croatia: 3. Mackay, 2. Vojtek, 1.

Polonia: 3. Olinowski, 2. Konopka, 1. Knot.

George Yelland.

LAURIE SCHWAB.



Jimmy Milišavljević

Footscray 1.
Ringwood 1

(Dragojevic 12,
Villers (R) 63)

Ringwood's Terry Lockhurst starred in his first State League match after a spell in the reserves.

As twin striker with Wim Spijkermann, his powerful and robust game always kept Footscray's defence under pressure.

Footscray could have won this match but strikers Slobodan Zoraja and Branko Buljevic missed countable chances.

Simeon Dragojevic was Footscray's only scorer but Ringwood equalised through Alan Villers with a typical bullet-like shot which was deflected by Milenko Ruzsik under the body of goalkeeper Jimmy Milišavljević.

Dick Ward marshalled a sound Ringwood back line with the skill that has made him a rock of strength in defence.

Five yards faster than last season, he steadily controlled the Footscray strikers in the second half.

The Footscray players' theatrical impatience with each other took its toll later in the game and you could feel the control of the match slipping away from them.

Frank Micic was quieter than usual in midfield and conceded territorial advantage to Ringwood's David Pygall.

This, combined with the danger of Lockhurst and Villers and the poor play of the Footscray front line, gave Ringwood a well-earned draw which will keep the team in the running for the top four.

FOOTSCRAY: Milišavljević, Ujescenovic, Ruzsik, Evans, Rice, Crivovic, Zoraja, Lukic, Dragojevic, Micic, Buljevic, Coach Cedo Crivovic.

RINGWOOD: van Eegmond,

Bailey, Ward, Adam, Bens, Pygall,

Villers, Bunce, Lockhurst,

Spijkermann, Campbell,

Votes:

Footscray: 3. Milišavljević, 2.

Ringwood: 3. Lockhurst, 2.

Villers, 1. Ward.

LAURIE SCHWAB.

JIM BARKER.

Team of the week

MILISAVLJEVIC
(Footscray)

DELLA ROCCA
(Juventus)

OLINOWSKI
(Polonia)

R. THOMSON
(Juventus)

MCGOWAN
(Melbourne)

J. TRAIN
(Slavia)

MACKAY
(Croatia)

SMART
(Geo. Cross)

EPIFANO
(Geo. Cross)

POCOCK
(Melbourne)

VOJTEK
(Croatia)

VOJTEK
(Croatia)

VOJTEK
(Croatia)

VOJTEK
(Croatia)

RINGWOOD TO BOUNCE BACK

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Ringwood City looks set to climb back into the top four by beating Lions at Jubilee Park on Saturday.

Current fourth place holder Croatia is unlikely to beat premiership-bound Juventus and the only other top four contender, South Melbourne, which should beat Slavia, cannot match Ringwood's goal average.

DeMarchi and regular scorer Bryan Thomson.

Add the brilliance of Gareth Salisbury in midfield, Jack Reilly in goal, Sandy Irvine in defence and a ruthless system of play and Juventus must start hot favorite in this game.

Croatia might feature Irish newcomer Paul Foley, a striker.

send them whimpering back to Essendon.

Wim Spijkermann got great support from Terry Lockhurst last week and despite the loss of Brian Edgcock as player and coach, Ringwood will do well.

Let's face it; they'll have no opposition.

has been achieving good results.

The loss of coach Lou Brocic is showing its effect on Footscray, whose players need a general who can pull them into line.

Last week, against Ringwood, the team lacked system and Branko Buljevic and Slobodan Zoraja missed scores of sitters.

Unlike Footscray, Hakoah is getting good service from all its players and is not worried by players not pulling their weight.

If the same workmanlike attitude that has been evident in recent weeks can be reproduced by Hakoah, it should be the vital factor in another victory.

POLOMIA v.
FITZROY

(Maribyrnong, Sun.)

GEORGE CROSS

v.
MELBOURNE

(Schineller Res., Sat.)

George Cross' attack really clicked last week, scoring seven against Polonia but Melbourne will be a different proposition.

I don't think the George Cross defence is strong enough to hold that deadly trio Ray Pocock, Billy Rogers and Steve Bleskany.

And although Jimmy Smart and Dario Epijanić scored five between them last week, they won't get as much latitude from Fabian Juhasz and Bill McGowan.

National coach Zvonimir Basic has the Melbourne Raiders working smoothly as a team and although weaknesses occur occasionally, there is enough depth to cover the gaps.

RINGWOOD v.
LIONS

(Jubilee Pk., Sat.)

The League leader has much more depth than Croatia featuring brilliant players all over the ground.

Tommy McColl, Australia's top scorer during its World Cup bid last year, will probably be back in attack to support the powerful Dino

Even if both go free, Ringwood will face a demoralising defeat.

Even if both go free, Ringwood will systematically tear out Lions' blunted claws and

SLAVIA v.
STH. MELB.

(Olympic Pk., Sun.)

Although new coach Ken Kontra has improved Slavia considerably, the team does not have the artillery to defeat South Melbourne which is now making a determined bid for a place in the State League Cup competition.

Ian Marshall, one of the most hard-working players in the League, has been a big asset to Hellas and has added a lot of punch to the attack.

David Gorrie is a regular scorer from behind, Geoff Gould can star when he wants to, and Ernie Ackerly is still one of the most useful players in Victoria.

Newcomer Tommy Clark is yet to show what he can do but he has good credentials and will prove his value when he settles down.

Jim Train did well in Slavia's midfield last week but without strikers Slavia won't avoid relegation.

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Polonia coach Kaz Kowalec comes through with the ball after beating Croatia's Ray Wixey. In the background are Marek Konopka and Zbigniew Knot.

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COUNTRY AND DISTRICT

NORTH EASTERN

In last week's game between Milawa and Myrtleford, a Milawa player is reported to have struck referee Tolnai of Melbourne.

The club is also charged with failing to protect or assist the official in any way.

In view of the serious nature of the charges, they were heard by the Metropolitan I. & D. Committee at Soccer House last night.

The North Eastern Federation took the bold

step of suspending the club pending the outcome of the hearing.

As a result, the points for last Sunday's games went to opponents.

Cobram still maintain their three points lead at the head of the table with Myrtleford and Shepparton keeping in close contact.

The wonderful trophy donated by LaFiamma for the season's top goalscorer, looks likely to go to Myrtleford striker D. Symes.

He held a one goal advantage over B. Tudor of Whorouly up to last Sunday, 30 goals to 29.

Results of last Sunday's games:

SENIORS.

Albury 6 Whorouly 0, King Valley 6 Benalla 1, Milawa 2, Cobram w.o. Myrtleford 18 Deniliquin 0, Seymour 1 Shepparton 10, Wangaratta 3 Wodonga 2.

RESERVES.

Albury 0 Whorouly 4, King Valley 3 Benalla 0, Milawa 2, Cobram w.o. Myrtleford 2 Deniliquin 0, Seymour 1 Shepparton 2, Wangaratta - Wodonga 2 w.o.

JUNIORS.

Myrtleford 3 Deniliquin 0, Seymour 5 Shepparton 3, Whorouly 2, Albury, Benalla and Cobram each received 2 points for a bye.

JUNIORS.

Wangaratta 31 points, Myrtleford 31, Cobram 28, Wodonga 25.

Deniliquin 21, Benalla 20, Seymour 19, Albury 18, Shepparton 12.

SENIORS.

P W D L F A Pts
Cobram 18 14 0 5 12-32 32
Myrtleford 18 14 1 3 12-29 33
Shepparton 18 12 2 3 12-25 31
Whorouly 18 12 2 3 12-25 31
Milawa 18 7 5 0 12-33 19
Albury 18 8 2 3 14-41 18
King Valley 18 4 4 10 31-57 12
Wodonga 18 7 5 0 12-34 11
Wodonga 18 3 2 5 10 25-44 11
Benalla 18 5 1 12 31-77 11
Seymour 18 5 1 2 12-27 6 11
Deniliquin 18 2 8 16 25-74 10

RESERVES.

P W D L F A Pts
Myrtleford 18 14 0 2 12-32 30
Cobram 18 14 0 2 12-37 30
Shepparton 18 14 0 2 12-32 30
Whorouly 18 11 3 1 12-37 25
Milawa 18 11 3 1 12-37 25
Wodonga 18 9 1 3 12-32 19
King Valley 18 7 4 2 10-41 18
Albury 18 7 4 2 10-41 18
Deniliquin 18 7 4 2 10-41 18
Benalla 18 3 1 14 7-67 7
Seymour 14 2 2 10 19-57 6

DISTRICT LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION.

Fitzroy 2 (Farrinacci, Agnello). Best: Lia, (Farrinacci) drew with Chadstone 2 (A. Fox 2. Best - T. Doolan, D. Pruden, M. Connors).

Fawkner 2 (M. Cosmano, V. Del' Olio, Best - G. Masoch, V. Del' Olio, G. Buloch) defeated Yarraville 1.

Kingsville 10 (Jole 4, Ilo 2, Pero 2, Cele, Zivko, Best - Pode, Poco), defeated North Altona 0.

Langwarrin 3 (M. Bailey, D. Wilson, G. Sutton, Best - Bailey, R. Pedron, Wilson) defeated Melton 0 (Best - I. Bell, J. McPhail, M. Bradley).

Hawkesburn 3 (Sekete 2, Pribil, Best - Pribil, Sekete, Bremetz) defeated Pascoe Vale 2.

CENTRAL.

Diamond Creek B. conceded walkover to Regent.

Diamond Creek A. 2 (K. Mitchell 2, Best - K. Mitchell, V. Cook, B. Plant) drew with Middi Park 2.

New Slovens 2 (W. Jelenic, L. Marinac pen. Best - D. Hribernik, L. Marinac, I. Delic) drew with Carlton 2 (A. Alekic, M. Radojkovic, Best - A. Alekic, M. Radojkovic, N. Peckic).

Keon Park 0 v. versus Reservoir.

Royal Park 0 lost to East Carlton 2. (Gargaro, Barraso. Best - Rossetto, Humphreys, Angerami).

WESTERN DIVISION.

North Sunshine 1 (C. Borg. Best - F. Mizzi, A. Spiteri, P. Lello) lost to Central Altona 2 (R. Kieffer, S. Zamola, Best - P. Pasevsky, J. Longaretti, M. Karmomyci).

Werribee 5 (Parker 2, Costello, Hubilee, Mantello, Best - Costello, Parker) defeated West Melbourne 1.

Laverton A. v. Parkville Cedars. Not played.

Garden City 3 (Tsatsakis, Iakovidis, Alevras. Best - Tsatsakis, Iakovidis, J. Cudie).

Leach) defeated Ascot United 0. (Best - B. Brennan, J. Bruzanit).

EASTERN DIVISION.

Monash 3 defeated Toorak H.M.E.M.

Cheltenham 3 (D. Jones 2, R. Tutko, Best - Jones, Kubasek, Magee) defeated Mitcham 2.

Windsor 4 defeated South Dandenong 2.

Sandringham 1 drew with Burnley 1. (Folger. Best - Wily).

RESERVE DIVISION.

Fitzroy 0 Chadstone 3. Fawkner 5 Yarraville 1, Kingsville w.o. v. Nth. Altona, Langwarrin 0 Melton 1, Hawkesburn 3 Pascoe Vale 2.

FIXTURES.

PREMIER DIVISION & RESERVES.

Fawkner v. Fitzroy, Chadstone v. Frankston, Pines, Ardeer v. Hawkesburn, Pascoe Vale v. Langwarrin, Yarraville v. Melton.

WEST DIVISION.

Elsternwick v. Garden City, Ascot Utd. v. Nth. Sunshine, Central Altona v. Laverton A., Parkville Cedars v. Werribee, West Melbourne - bye, Laverton B. v. Williamstown.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

Diamond Creek A v. East Brunswick, Croydon 4ths. v. Kew, Clinton v. Keon Park, Reservoir v. Royal Park, East Carlton v. Diamond Creek B, Middle Park v. Regent.

EAST DIVISION.

Cheltenham v. Sandringham 3rds., Burnley v. Doveton, Army Apprentices A. v. Monash 3rds., Toorak v. Army Apprentices B., Windsor - bye, Mitcham v. St. Dandenong.

HOW THEY STAND

BALLARAT, GEELONG

Championships in all divisions of Geelong, Ballarat and District F. A. have been won.

Geelong Little Soccer League has also provided outright winners of this years competitions.

Hamlyn Rangers clinched the First Division flag when they defeated Ballarat United 2-1 at Hamlyn Park, last Saturday.

It was Hamlyn's last game for the season and a win would give them an unbeatable lead at the top.

It was a tough, nail biting affair, and several players wilted under the strain and tension.

One of Hamlyn's most dynamic players, Duncan Thomson, put his side through the victory by scoring the only goal of the first half.

Early in the second half, Thomson received the pass for Charlie Fitzpatrick to make it 2-0 and Hamlyn breathed more freely.

With three minutes to go, Ballarat shocked Hamlyn out of the comacency by reducing the score with a neat goal from Harry Arts.

The last three minutes were long ones for the winners, just they hung on to their narrow lead.

Hamlyn are worthy champions, they have been consistent and consistent throughout the League season.

Geelong have only a one point lead at the head of Division Two, with a match to go.

However, Ballarat's inability to field a second string, automatically gives Geelong the points and the League champion.

UNDER 12's.

North. Under 12's 4 Corio Colts 0.

Metropolitan round-up — with George Yelland

SECOND DIVISION A

CLIFF HANGER

Interest and excitement remain at a high level in the Metropolitan League.

Fierce battles in all four divisions did little to clarify promotion and relegation problems.

Box Hill clung to top spot in first division when an own goal by Elwood defender Cornel Sen gave them both points, but Dandenong and Preston Makedonia kept up the challenge with convincing victories.

Top two, in divisions two and four, met and divided the spoils.

Intensity of the competition in division two was highlighted when not one of the top seven clubs won.

In division three Mooroolbark drew closer to the top when they got the better of League leader, Ferntree Gully, in a tough encounter at Mooroolbark.

Maryborough Triestina are making a desperate bid to avoid the drop into division three and won by four clear goals against Sandringham.

In division three, St. Kilda drew with Heidelberg and extended their unbeaten run to eight games, five wins and three draws.

Brilliant, crowd pleasing games took place at Keilor and Yallourn.

Both games were thrill-a-minute encounters, full of top class Soccer.

These games would rival anything that State League could produce.

The match I saw at Frankston was full of interest for the full ninety minutes.

Playing several reserves, due to injury, neither side produced its best form but there were plenty of thrilling moments.

Frankston started off at top speed and threatened to swamp Princes Park Hercules.

The visitors showed their class when they not only stemmed the onslaught, but fought back to take the lead.

A mishit but accurately placed shot by Albie Matthews, restored equality. Daring down the left at high speed, he hit the ball from an oblique angle, low into the net.

Paul Bitsounis cleverly headed Hercules into the lead when he nodded home a rebound from the woodwork.

When goalkeeper, Billy Papoutsakis, handled outside the penalty area, Perry Skamagas hit the post with his acute angled free kick and Bitsounis did the rest.

Jimmy Papas and Billy Papoutsakis impressed with fearless and intelligent goalkeeping.

Diminutive Charlie Gambin was outstanding for Princes Park, a veritable dynamo he was everywhere in defence.

His kicking was clean and powerful, his tackling courageous and effective.

In the overall picture, Hercules were trickier with footwork and more accurate with passing.

Frankston, a big and strong side, should have

wrapped the game up in the first 25 minutes. They are speedy and direct.

Albie Matthews, a tall, well-built spearhead, has a lethal shot but does not use it enough.

Brian Finch is the brains of the attack. His defence splitting passes were well conceived and accurately executed.

Tom Hall, Billy Lewis and Mick Bevis were strong defenders who never shirked a tackle. Kurt Schroeder is a constructive linkman and a hard worker.

The teams chief fault lay in hesitancy in front of goal and an unwillingness to "have a go".

Many players do not collect passes and move with the ball quickly enough and there is too great a tendency to wait for the ball instead of going for it.

Closer marking of opponents and a little better understanding of one another's moves, would make them a team to be feared.

Hercules played good Soccer and pushed the ball forward consistently.

Bitsounis, Skamagas, Steve Kakkis and Di Giovanni all take the short route to goal.

Elwood Austria and Box Hill fought out a first class match at Ormond Esplanade on Saturday.

Playing with the breeze Elwood pressed the visitors in the first half and John Hagar brought off two terrific saves.

Two other shots were cleared off the line by defenders.

Much of the game developed into a midfield tussle with honors fairly even.

The only goal came in the second half when Cornel Sen back-heeled to Frank Petersen who had moved out of goal.

The ball hit the post and passed into goal.

Austria had chances to draw level, but did not finish well and Box Hill was solid and unruled.

Micky Lydon went close to the visitors when a great shot flashed inches wide of the post.

Grant McGregor in the link role, sweeps Jimmy McCracken and full back Alan Denyer best for a while at Box Hill.

John Webb, Johnny Triakowski, Cornell Sen and Mike Walsh, gave outstanding service to a rather unfortunate Austria.

Playing minors David Hope, Bob Miller, John Scott, Tim and Trevor Teer is Box Hill defeated the powerful Austria reserves 3-2.

Their goals came from Micky Lydon 2 and John Field.

Keilor City kept up their challenge to Box Hill with a clear cut win over Sunshine Coast.

The game was won and lost between the 7th and 15th minutes when Dandenong streaked to a three goal lead.

First, Jimmie Miller collected a through ball crossed accurately for Peter Lowen to score.

Four minutes later, Lowen struck again when he rose high to nod in a Mike Hall corner kick.

Another three goals and the game was over.

Frankie dispossessed a Sunshine forward, passed to

Millar who darted upfield, slid the ball to Lowen.

Lowen transferred it to Hall who found Brian Holcombe unmarked. Holcombe made no mistake with a hard drive.

As the game then slackened pace as Sunshine faded and the game was more even up to half time.

The second half was a rather drab affair, until Albert Seenan chased a low ball to pull one back for the visitors.

Without Peter Hill, Kazi Pietrowski and Bobby Pocock, all injured, Sunshine never looked likely to pull the game out of the bag.

Butch Kokosa and Mick Banagan gave ninety minutes of sustained effort for the visitors.

Dandenong were served best by pivot Phil Bence, David Parker, Ian McLean and John Bevan.

John Bevan, who has spent his Soccer life at Springvale, has gone to West Australia.

A consistent and polished player, his presence in the side

Joining Springvale ten years ago at the age of twelve, he is the top via junior sides.

Grant and Peters were both on the injured list, yet St. Albans never offered a serious challenge.

Peter Druska, who came from Melbourne, replaced Gilfillan at centre half and gave a faultless effort.

Tom Fowler, playing twin centreman with Druska, also gave a fine performance.

Barry Horsfall is finding the going tough. His reputation has never been a marksmen and he received plenty of attention.

Normal Edgar put Henk Meyer away on the wing and his centre, was anticipated perfectly by Fowler, who was quick to snuff the ball into the net.

Midway in the second half, Meyer was through with a clear shot at goal when he was pushed off the ball.

He converted the resultant penalty kick.

Stuart McLachlan in goal, Pat Flynn, Fowler and Druska were outstanding for Springvale.

Keilor City and Altona City played a ding dong battle at St. Albans. It was fast, open soccer of both teams.

Altona played against the wind in the first half but had slightly the better of exchanges.

Keilor opened the second half with great pressure.

Within three minutes Eddie Kupitz scored from an accurate cross by Kaz Klein.

Altona scored terrific speed in their fight back and eventually had fortuna equalised with a brilliant flick header following a corner kick.

Both goalkeepers were tested with fine shots.

Zenon Golonski tipped one cannon ball shot, from Ray King, over the bar in great style.

Jim Bayliss close marked danger man Stan Kovacs and young lordinas was a handful for experienced Joe Menary.

Iordanis is only 17, and is a bright spark for the future, down Altona.

He played for Victoria under 16's in Adelaide last year. He is fast and goal hungry.

Stuart Culbard played a storming game at left back, for Altona.

Keilor stuck to their rich brand of good soccer but were never able to fully combat Altona's speed and determination.

John Savage was taken off, injured, after half-time and Bobby Milroy substituted well for him.

Jim Bayliss, Stuart Culbard and Tommy Keen were five star players for Altona.

Joe Menary, Billy Zewczuk and Kaz Klein were outstanding in a polished Keilor team.

In second division, there were a number of surprises.

Mooroolbark Green Gully Ajax at Green Gully when they won the odd goal in three.

There were a number of unpleasant incidents in this game and an Ajax forward was sent off for spitting in Alastair Walker's face.

Green Gully put on early pressure but after 22 minutes

Mooroolbark broke away to go into a shock lead.

Roland Crothers collected a pass from Brendan Crothers and cracked the ball low into the net.

Green Gully fought hard to make up the difference and Moreland's 17½ years old keeper made two fantastic saves from point blank range.

Five minutes before half-time, stick and knife covering let in Alastair to equalise.

Green Gully came out full of determination in the second half but Moreland's defence held firm.

The visitors then tided the game up and Deon Oxtón went close with fine efforts.

Brendan Crothers took an intelligent throw-in to the advancing Oxtón who swept forward to give Moreland the lead with a flashing drive.

Green Gully fought hard to equalise, indulging in some questionable tactics and spurred on by a crowd that hurled abuse at the referee and visiting players.

Moreland stuck to their task and emerged winners.

Crothers, Oxtón and Herb Plisow were superb in an all out team effort.

Maryborough Triestina crushed an indifferent Sandringham, by four clear goals, at Campbell Reserve.

It was Triestina all the way with Sandringham making the odd, ineffective breakaway.

Sergio Tribuzio opened the scoring when Sandringham's goalkeeper fumbled his first shot.

Following up, he scored easily.

A corner by Eddie Pica was met by Joe Sonsini to make it 2-0.

Tribuzio made it three, early in the second half.

There were thrills at both ends.

Arthur Bolton headed one off the line and at the other end, Watson and the Malton brothers all had a shot.

Dave Watson scored from the spot.

It was a wonderful team effort by both sides and a draw was a fair result.

Goalkeeper Mario Saffioti in junior ranks was replaced by Giovanni.

Triestina who gave a sound performance, made a couple of great saves before Pica scored Triestina's fourth from a glorious opportunity.

It was a sound team effort by Triestina, who are fighting desperately to retain second division status.

Brighton kept a point ahead of Sandringham, narrowly defeating Oakleigh Athena by the only goal of the game.

The goal was a lucky one as the goalkeeper stopped Dave Campbell's 40 yard shot and it rolled into the net.

The game was very one-sided.

Brighton having 90 per cent of the play but their finish is woeful.

Jimmy Molloy got the ball into the net, but it was a goal for the visitors.

David Thomas, Dave King and Molloy all went close to scoring with great first half efforts.

Playing purposeful soccer they equalised in 57 minutes following a corner.

Andy Strange side-footed to Albert Stanway, who smacked it in.

The second half was cut and thrust, after three minutes remained. Dave Harrison split the defence with a grand ball which found Donald Clark. Clark scored

if they are to stave off relegation, they must find an answer to their present goal famine.

Yallourn and Coburg put on an exciting game which would have made most State League clubs blush with shame and envy.

So would the crowd of over 500 which turned to this great game.

A brilliant and balanced start developed into a dazzling exhibition of brilliant attacking soccer.

Both sides paid tribute to referee D. Taylor's handling of the game.

Park Rangers were without four key players at Deer Park and offered no token resistance to a polished Western Suburbs.

Regular goalkeeper Rudi Pel is still on business, in Canberra.

Bayswater narrowly defeated Oxdon in a crowd pleasing game at Bayswater.

There was little to choose between the teams.

Bayswater took their chances and Croydon only took one.

Goalkeepers Martin Koenan of Croydon and Bernie Easton of Bayswater were in great form.

Koenan saved well from Matheu Vandenbeld and Easton dived at the feet of Jeff Bagg to save dramatically.

Both sides had a brilliant beauty when John Lytton blasted in a terrific shot, but the ball hit the post and did not relax until the final whistle.

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